
HOUSE BILL No. 1368

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 29-1.

Synopsis: Share of subsequent childless spouse. Provides that a subsequent childless spouse of a person who dies after June 30, 2003, receives an intestate share or an elective share in an amount equal to 25% of the appraised value of the lands of the deceased. Provides that in determining "net estate" for purposes of the intestate or elective share, death taxes are not subtracted from the total estate to determine the net estate. Repeals a provision concerning the portion of the estate a widow receives free from claims by creditors.

Effective: July 1, 2003.

Foley, Weinzapfel

January 14, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.

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First Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2003)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2002 Regular or Special Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1368

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning probate.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 29-1-1-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
2 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 3. **(a)** The **following** definitions ~~and~~
3 ~~rules of construction appearing in this section~~ apply throughout this
4 article, unless otherwise apparent from the context:

5 **(1)** "Child" includes an adopted child but does not include a
6 grandchild or other more remote descendants, nor, except as
7 provided in IC 29-1-2-5, a child born out of wedlock.

8 **(2)** "Claims" includes **the following**:

9 **(A) Except as provided in clause (B)**, liabilities of a decedent
10 which survive, whether arising in contract or in tort or
11 otherwise, funeral expenses, the expense of a tombstone,
12 expenses of administration, and all ~~inheritance taxes imposed~~
13 ~~under IC 6-4-1~~ **taxes imposed by reason of the person's**
14 **death.**

15 **(B) In a distribution under IC 29-1-2-1 or IC 29-1-3-1,**
16 **liabilities of a decedent that survive, whether arising in**
17 **contract or in tort or otherwise, funeral expenses, the**



expense of a tombstone, and expenses of administration.

(3) "Court" means the court having probate jurisdiction.

(4) "Decedent" means one who dies testate or intestate.

(5) "Devise" or "legacy", when used as a noun, means a testamentary disposition of either real or personal property or both.

(6) "Devise", when used as a verb, means to dispose of either real or personal property or both by will.

(7) "Devisee" includes legatee, and "legatee" includes devisee.

(8) "Distributee" denotes those persons who are entitled to the real and personal property of a decedent under a will, under the statutes of intestate succession, or under IC 29-1-4-1.

(9) "Estate" denotes the real and personal property of the decedent or protected person, as from time to time changed in form by sale, reinvestment, or otherwise, and augmented by any accretions and additions thereto and substitutions therefor and diminished by any decreases and distributions therefrom.

(10) "Fiduciary" includes a:

(+) (A) personal representative;

(2) (B) guardian;

(3) (C) conservator;

(4) (D) trustee; and

(5) (E) person designated in a protective order to act on behalf of a protected person.

(11) "Heirs" denotes those persons, including the surviving spouse, who are entitled under the statutes of intestate succession to the real and personal property of a decedent on the decedent's death intestate, unless otherwise defined or limited by the will.

(12) "Incapacitated" has the meaning set forth in IC 29-3-1-7.5.

(13) "Interested persons" means heirs, devisees, spouses, creditors, or any others having a property right in or claim against the estate of a decedent being administered. This meaning may vary at different stages and different parts of a proceeding and must be determined according to the particular purpose and matter involved.

(14) "Issue" of a person, when used to refer to persons who take by intestate succession, includes all lawful lineal descendants except those who are lineal descendants of living lineal descendants of the intestate.

(15) "Lease" includes an oil and gas lease or other mineral lease.

(16) "Letters" includes letters testamentary, letters of administration, and letters of guardianship.

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(17) "Minor" or "minor child" or "minority" refers to any person under the age of eighteen (18) years.

(18) "Mortgage" includes deed of trust, vendor's lien, and chattel mortgage.

(19) "Net estate" refers to the real and personal property of a decedent ~~exclusive of~~ **less** the allowances provided under IC 29-1-4-1 and enforceable claims against the estate.

(20) "Person" includes natural persons and corporations.

(21) "Personal property" includes interests in goods, money, choses in action, evidences of debt, and chattels real.

(22) "Personal representative" includes executor, administrator, administrator with the will annexed, administrator de bonis non, and special administrator.

(23) "Property" includes both real and personal property.

(24) "Protected person" has the meaning set forth in IC 29-3-1-13.

(25) "Real property" includes estates and interests in land, corporeal or incorporeal, legal or equitable, other than chattels real.

(26) "Will" includes all wills, testaments, and codicils. The term also includes a testamentary instrument which merely appoints an executor or revokes or revives another will.

(b) The following rules of construction apply throughout this article unless otherwise apparent from the context:

(1) The singular number includes the plural and the plural number includes the singular.

(2) The masculine gender includes the feminine and neuter.

SECTION 2. IC 29-1-2-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 1. (a) The ~~net~~ estate of a person dying intestate shall descend and be distributed as provided in this section.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c), the surviving spouse shall receive the following share:

(1) One-half (1/2) of the net estate if the intestate is survived by at least one (1) child or by the issue of at least one (1) deceased child.

(2) Three-fourths (3/4) of the net estate, if there is no surviving issue, but the intestate is survived by one (1) or both of the intestate's parents.

(3) All of the net estate, if there is no surviving issue or parent.

(c) If the surviving spouse is a second or other subsequent spouse who did not at any time have children by the decedent, and the decedent left surviving him a child or children or the descendants of a

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child or children by a previous spouse, such surviving second or subsequent childless spouse shall take only a ~~life estate in one-third~~ **(1/3) an amount equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the appraised value** of the lands of the deceased spouse, and the fee shall, at the decedent's death, vest at once in such child or children, or the descendants of such as may be dead. ~~subject only to the life estate of the surviving spouse.~~ Such second or subsequent childless spouse shall, however, receive the same share of the personal property of the decedent as is provided in subsection (b) with respect to surviving spouses generally.

(d) The share of the net estate not distributable to the surviving spouse, or the entire net estate if there is no surviving spouse, shall descend and be distributed as follows:

(1) To the issue of the intestate, if they are all of the same degree of kinship to the intestate, they shall take equally; or if of unequal degree, then those of more remote degrees shall take by representation.

(2) If there is a surviving spouse but no surviving issue of the intestate, then to the surviving parents of the intestate.

(3) If there is no surviving spouse or issue of the intestate, then to the surviving parents, brothers, and sisters, and the issue of deceased brothers and sisters of the intestate. Each living parent of the intestate shall be treated as of the same degree as a brother or sister and shall be entitled to the same share as a brother or sister. However, the share of each parent shall be not less than one-fourth (1/4) of such net estate. Issue of deceased brothers and sisters shall take by representation.

(4) If there is no surviving parent or brother or sister of the intestate, then to the issue of brothers and sisters. If such distributees are all in the same degree of kinship to the intestate, they shall take equally or, if of unequal degree, then those of more remote degrees shall take by representation.

(5) If there is no surviving issue or parent of the intestate or issue of a parent, then to the surviving grandparents of the intestate equally.

(6) If there is no surviving issue or parent or issue of a parent, or grandparent of the intestate, then the estate of the decedent shall be divided into that number of shares equal to the sum of:

(A) the number of brothers and sisters of the decedent's parents surviving the decedent; plus

(B) the number of deceased brothers and sisters of the decedent's parents leaving issue surviving both them and the

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1 decedent; and
 2 one (1) of the shares shall pass to each of the brothers and sisters
 3 of the decedent's parents or their respective issue per stirpes.
 4 (7) If interests in real estate go to a husband and wife under this
 5 subsection, the aggregate interests so descending shall be owned
 6 by them as tenants by the entireties. Interests in personal property
 7 so descending shall be owned as tenants in common.
 8 (8) If there is no person mentioned in subdivisions (1) through
 9 (7), then to the state.

10 SECTION 3. IC 29-1-3-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 11 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 1. (a) When a married individual
 12 dies testate as to any part of the individual's estate, the surviving spouse
 13 is entitled to take against the will under the limitations and conditions
 14 stated in this chapter. The surviving spouse, upon electing to take
 15 against the will, is entitled to one-half (1/2) of the net personal and real
 16 estate of the testator. However, if the surviving spouse is a second or
 17 other subsequent spouse who did not at any time have children by the
 18 decedent and the decedent left surviving a child or children or the
 19 descendants of a child or children by a previous spouse, the surviving
 20 second or subsequent childless spouse shall upon such election take
 21 one-third (1/3) of the net personal estate of the testator plus ~~a life estate~~
 22 ~~in one-third (1/3)~~ **an amount equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of**
 23 **the appraised value** of the lands of the testator. In determining the net
 24 estate of a deceased spouse for the purpose of computing the amount
 25 due the surviving spouse electing to take against the will, the court
 26 shall consider only such property as would have passed under the laws
 27 of descent and distribution.

28 (b) When the value of the property given the surviving spouse under
 29 the will is less than the amount the surviving spouse would receive by
 30 electing to take against the will, the surviving spouse may elect to
 31 retain any or all specific bequests or devises given to the surviving
 32 spouse in the will at their fair market value as of the time of the
 33 decedent's death and receive the balance due in cash or property.

34 (c) Except as provided in subsection (b), in electing to take against
 35 the will, the surviving spouse is deemed to renounce all rights and
 36 interest of every kind and character in the personal and real property of
 37 the deceased spouse, and to accept the elected award in lieu thereof.

38 (d) When a surviving spouse elects to take against the will, the
 39 surviving spouse shall be deemed to take by descent, as a modified
 40 share, the part of the net estate as does not come to the surviving
 41 spouse by the terms of the will. Where by virtue of an election pursuant
 42 to this chapter it is determined that the surviving spouse has renounced

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the surviving spouse's rights in any devise, either in trust or otherwise, the will shall be construed with respect to the property so devised to the surviving spouse as if the surviving spouse had predeceased the testator.

SECTION 4. IC 29-1-3-7 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 7. When a surviving spouse makes no election to take against the will, he shall receive the benefit of all provisions in his favor in the will, if any, and shall share as heir, in accordance with IC 29-1-2-1, ~~and IC 29-1-2-2~~, in any estate undisposed of by the will. The surviving spouse is not entitled to take any share against the will by virtue of the fact that the testator made no provisions for him therein, except as he shall elect pursuant to IC 29-1. By taking under the will or consenting thereto, he does not waive his right to the allowance, unless it clearly appears from the will that the provision therein made for him was intended to be in lieu of that right.

SECTION 5. IC 29-1-2-2 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003].

SECTION 6. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003] **IC 29-1-2-1, IC 29-1-3-1, and IC 29-1-3-7, all as amended by this act, apply only to the estate of an individual who dies after June 30, 2003.**

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